

ABSTRACT OF THE INVENTION

A technique is disclosed for reducing collisions of signals occurring on at least one communication channel in an access network. The access network may include at least one Head End, and a plurality of network nodes. Each of the network node is configured to transmit signals to the Head End via the communication channel. Filter parameters are included in selected communication request messages transmitted to a first portion of nodes. According to specific embodiments, the filter parameters may be used to limit the number of responses to the communication request messages which are transmitted on the communication channel. In this way, by limiting the number of responses which may be transmitted at specified times over the communication channel, the likelihood of signal collisions occurring on the communication channel may be reduced.